

179 Great Northern Road
North Troy, VT 05859

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After a long, tedious expenditure of time and money by both the Microsoft Corporation and the US Government, there is a settlement on the table in the antitrust suit filed by the Department of Justice. Personally, I did not think the case should have been brought to trial, but it was, and I am happy to see that an agreement has been reached. In the settlement, Microsoft will not break up.

Microsoft is a good company. They are profitable and they bring good products to the market. We are making it hard for businesses to succeed anymore. We lament the loss of jobs and pour money into unemployment benefits, but deny companies the opportunity to succeed and provide jobs. Microsoft has agreed to the terms of the settlement in an effort to finally close the case and get it behind them. They have agreed to more conditions than were charged in the suit.

I want to urge you to let the settlement stand and to close the case. We should let Microsoft get on with innovation and growth. It would be wrong to take any further legal action against Microsoft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Ferguson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Ferguson